

JAMES RIVER SWCD MONTHLY MEETING
Board of Directors Meeting
June 5, 2008

James River Soil and Water Conservation District held its monthly board meeting on June 5th, 2008, at the Chesterfield County Lane B. Ramsey Administration building. Chairman Don Bagshaw called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. opening with invocation. Attendees were:

Directors: Don Bagshaw, Margie Davis, Chris Elko, W. D. Kreider, Mike Likins, Charlie Skalsky
Associates: George Beadles, Scott Reiter
Staff: Linda McAllister, Dan Lee
Agency Partners: Carrie Hagin (DCR), Anthony Howell (NRCS)
Absent: John Kinch,
Guests: Rob Suydam (VDOF), Lynn Wilson and Susan Kuroski (Capital Region Land Conservancy)

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES of April 3, 2008

Draft copies of the April 3rd meeting minutes were sent out for review and approval. There were no corrections. A motion was made that the April 3rd 2008 minutes be accepted as presented.
Motion made: Charles Skalsky Seconded: Chris Elko Motion passed.

WORK SESSION “Conservation Easements and the District’s Role”

- George Beadles, Chairman of the Land Easement Committee reported on the progress of the committee. There was a discussion of the current interest in easements in Chesterfield County.
- Rob Suydam, Forest Conservation Specialist, VDOF, presented on Forestland Conservation.
- Lynn Wilson continued the presentation discussing Capital Region Land Conservancy and the role they provide in local conservation. The discussion included a proposal of partnership with the District in the area of easement holding.
- The District recognizes the need for a policy and agrees that no easement will be considered until the policy is created and approved.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT: A short report was presented outlining activities for April & May. A written report is attached.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No comments

AGENCY REPORTS:

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION (DCR):

Carrie Hagin, CDC, provided a written report for the month of June and reviewed the highlights. Specifically there was a discussion about the 5% Technical Assistance money that has been budgeted and the process to request using those funds.

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS):

Anthony Howell provided a written report detailing trainings and meetings attended, conservation assistance, and projects in progress for the month. Copy is attached.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

AGRICULTURAL:

The committee recommends that the Board approve the additional cost share (requested at the March 2008 meeting) for Engle Farms Inc. since additional funding has been secured. A motion was made to fund the additional \$11,431.60 needed to complete the cost share application by Engle Farms Inc.

Motion made: Mike Likins Seconded: Margie Davis Motion passed

Secondary Considerations: The committee presented secondary considerations for cost share with the following changes: Moving old priority watersheds into secondary considerations where they will become the new Ag NPS ranking table. A motion was made to accept the secondary considerations with the changes as presented by the Ag Committee. Motion made: Mike Likins Seconded: Margie Davis Motion passed

Carrie Hagin discussed the grant agreements and the changes in wording and deliverables of the agreements. The changes discussed were minimal and were accepted later in the agenda.

Dan reported that a letter is being drafted by a committee of Conservation Specialists requesting DCR to reconsider the recent changes to the SL-15A cost share practice and consideration to additional per acre funding for SL-8B. The current changes to the practice will make it more difficult to promote to local producers. Dan is requesting that the district review and sign the letter when it is available. A motion was made that the District review and sign the letter of support concerning the SL-15A and SL-8 B cost share practices. Motion made: Mike Likins Seconded: Margie Davis

EDUCATION:

Youth Conservation Camp: One camper from Chesterfield County will be going to Conservation Camp at a cost of \$550.00. The amount is in the current budget.

District Scholarship: The Education Committee recommends granting the District scholarship, in the amount of \$750 to Katherine Beyer, a student at James River High School. She plans to attend University of Virginia and major in Environmental Science. A motion was made to accept the scholarship application.

Motion made: Margie Davis Seconded: Charlie Skalsky Motion passed.

FINANCE: Linda presented the financial report for April 2008. A motion was made to approve the financial report. Motion made: Chris Elko. Seconded: Mike Likins. Motion passed.

PERSONNEL: The District has an opportunity for a half time position for support of the implementation of BMPs. After a brief discussion a motion was made to accept the opportunity of the position. Motion made: Mike Likins. Seconded: Charlie Skalsky. Motion passed. Additional discussion followed about the process to follow in filling this position. A motion was made to allow the staff to make a hiring recommendation to the Personnel Committee and if the position is not filled in this manner, to allow the Personnel Committee to advertise for the position. Motion made: Charles Skalsky Seconded: Mike Likins. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **OPERATIONAL AND COST SHARE GRANT AGREEMENTS:** Carrie Hagin discussed some changes in the grant agreements for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. The total amount of the operational grant will be \$82,033, a reduction of \$7,860 from the past year. The total cost share grant amount is 159,679, which is \$116,414 in the Chesapeake Bay and 43,265 in Southern Rivers, which is an increase over last year. A motion was made to accept both of the grant agreements. Motion made: Margie Davis Seconded: Charlie Skalsky. Motion passed.

STRATEGIC PLANNING: Margie Davis, Chairman of the committee, will review the current plan of work and schedule a meeting prior to the July board meeting.

EMPLOYEE'S REPORT: Linda reported that Dan, Margie and Scott had all successfully completed the online Director's Orientation class.

NEXT MEETING DATE: After a brief discussion it was decided that the July meeting will be held at its regularly scheduled time; July 3rd, 2008 at 6:00 in Prince George.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business a motion was made to adjourn. Motion made: Mike Likins Seconded: Charlie Skalsky. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda McAllister
District Administrator

Don Bagshaw, Chairman

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